THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) Yes Sir, Dolphins have been sighted near the mouth of Chilika Lake.

(b) To attract domestic and foreign tourists, the State Government of Orissa has identified three projects for private investment in Chilika Lake area. These are:—

(i) Island Resort inside Chilika Lake.

(ii) Pleasure Resort at Badaghati.

(iii) Beach Resort Puri-Chilika Coastline.

The Department of Tourism has sanctioned Rs. 26.50 lakhs for a Yatri Niwas at Satapada and Rs. 21.96 lakhs for purchase of water sports equipment at Chilika Lake.

In addition, the Department of Tourism has prioritized "Wayside amenities at Satapada at an estimated cost of Rs. 25 lakhs" for Central Financial Assistance during 1996-97.

Modifications in original draft report of Fifth Pay Comission

*278. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 393 given in Rajya Sabha on 26th November, 1996 and state:

(a) whether a lot of modification has been made in the original draft report of the Fifth Pay Commission;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to keep Central Government Employees interest in view while preparing the report?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) (a) and (b) The Fifth Pay Commission has not yet submitted its Report. The Commission has informed that as the Chapters of the original draft report are still under preparation the question of making any modifications does not arise.

(c) The Pay Commission had invited, and has received, the views of several employees' Associations/Unions, pensioners and other concerned organisations in regard to the service conditions of the Government empoloyees. These will be kept in view while finalising the recommendations.

Help to Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank by RBI/NABARD

*279. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government will order R.B.I. or NABARD to help Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank for procurement of cotton; and

(b) the reasons for not helping Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank for the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that it has granted authorisation to the Maharashtra State Co-operative Bank (MSCB) under the Credit Authorisation Scheme (CAS) for providing finance to the Maharashtra State Co-operative Cotton Growers' Marketing Federation for their procurement operations. In terms of norms prescribed by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the MSCB was eligible to provide finance to the Federation only to the extent of Rs. 139.00 crores for the 1995-96 season. However, in view of the problems faced by the Federation in their cotton procurement Operaions, NABARD, had in consultation with RBI, authorised MSCB to sanction finance upto Rs. 300.00 crores to the Federation, as a special case. For the 1996-97 procurement season also MSCB has been authorised to finance the Federation upto Rs. 300 crores for procurement of cotton in the State of Maharashtra.